

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for translating an arc definition into a series of conic curve definitions in a form usable by an imager includes first defining a given ellipse. Two intersecting vectors each intersect the ellipse to determine the exact beginning and ending points of the desired arc. The arc is then broken down into a series of sub-arcs no larger than 90 degrees each. The sub-arcs are then represented as conic curve definitions that are usable by an imager to accomplish imaging or clipping against a specified arc.